Welfare Schemes for the poor persons

5037. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

CHAUDHARY HARMOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many people have been benefited through the welfare schemes introduced by Government for the poor persons in the various States of the country, specially in the State of Punjab during the last two years;

(b) what are the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have formulated any new comprehensive plan for eradication the poverty of poor people in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITA RAM KESRI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Facilities for the Welfare of Menially Handicapped persons

5038. DR. SANJAYA SINH:

SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR:

SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 280 given in the Rajya Sabha on 31st March, 1995 and state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the resolution passed by the World Congress for the welfare of the mentally handicapped persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, by when a decision is proposed to be taken thereon;

(c) what are the details of facilities which are now available for the mentally handicapped persons; and

(d) whether Government propose to reserve some jobs for them in public/private sector and if so, the details thereof and if not, what other measure Government propose to take to rehabilitate them?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITA RAM KESRI): (a) and (b) The resolution passed by the IX World Congress for welfare of mentally retarded in November, 1994 is under consideration.

(c) A statement is enclosed (*See* below).

(d) No proposal is under consideration of the Government for reservation for the mentally handietarded in the jobs in public and private sectors. Government proposes to set up a National Trust for welfare of persons with Mental Retardation and Cerebral Palsy to provide guardianships and foster care for mentally retarded and Carebral Palcied persons.

Statement

Facilities for the Welfare of Mentally Handicaped persons

The subject of 'Relief to the disabled and unemployable is the responsibility for the State Governments under Entry 9 in List II (State List). The Ministry of Welfare, Government of India plays a supporting and coordinating role.

The thrust of all the programmes/schemes implemented by the Ministry of Welfare for handicapped welfare is to bring the disabled persons including mentally retarded persons

in the mainstream of life. Major programmes/schemes of the Ministry of Welfare of achieving the objective mentioned above, are as follows:—

(1) *Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for the Disabled*

Under this scheme assistance is provided to voluntary organisations to run rehabilitation programme for the disabled including mentally retarded. It is a comprehensive scheme covering different areas of rehabilitation— physical, psychological, social and economic, Financial support is given to the extent of 90 per cent of the total project cost (upto 95 per cent for the rural areas) for recurring items like staff salary, maintenance charges, contingenices and non-recurring items like construction of building, equipments, funitures,. Financial assistance is given for the projects such as vocational training centres, special schools, counselling centres, hostels, training centres for personnels, placement services etc.

(2) *Establishment and Development of Special Schools*

The scheme envisages assistance to the NGOs to the extent of 90 per cent for establishment and upgradation of special schools in four major disabilities areas — orthopaedic, hearing and speech, visual and mentally retarded. Priority under the scheme is given for setting up of schools in districts where there are no special schools at present. Both recurring and non-recurring expenditure is supported by the Ministry.

(3) *Assistance to Organisations for persons with Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation*

Under the scheme, assistance is given to NGOs upto the extent of 100 per cent for running training courses for teachers in the area of Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation.

(4) *National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad*

In order to effectively deal with the multi-dimensional problems of the handicapped population, National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped has been set up at Secunderabad. This Institute is apex level organisation in the field of training, vocational guidance, counselling, research, rehabilitation, development of suitable service modules for the mentally retarded. This Institute also serve as a premier documentation and information centre in its area of disability.

(5) *National Trust for the welfare of Persons with Mental Retardation and Cerebral Palsy*

A statutory National Trust for the welfare of Persons with Mental Retardation and Cerebral Palsy is proposed to be set up during the year.

(6) *National Handicapped Financial and Development Corporation*

The Corporation is being set up by the Ministry as an independent body with objectives like extending loans, financial assistance on easy terms and low rate of interest, promoting self employment for handicapped including mentally retarded persons, etc.